

Tenth International Symposium on Neural Regeneration

Introduction

The Tenth International Symposium on Neural Regeneration will be held at the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, California, from December 10–14, 2003. The International Symposium on Neural Regeneration began in 1985 and has been held biennially since that time. The primary sponsor has been the Department of Veterans Affairs, with the NIH continuously cosponsoring the symposia since 1987. Long-term generous support has also been given by the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association and, more recently, the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation. The 2003 symposium will be the tenth meeting in this series and is the first to also be sponsored in part by donations from two new sources: Richard and Gail Siegal and the Shapiro Spinal Cord Research Foundation. The generous support of all of our sponsors is gratefully acknowledged.

The keynote speaker for this year's symposium will be Mary Bunge from the University of Miami. Featured talks will be given by Hunter Peckham from Case Western Reserve University, Michael Fehlings from University of Toronto, Ellen Heber-Katz from The Wistar Institute, and Stephen Strittmatter from Yale University. Following the format of preceding neural regeneration symposia, the program is divided into six sessions, including (1) Optic Nerve Regeneration, chaired by Kwok-Fai So; (2) Biological and Translational Potential of Olfactory Ensheathing Glial Cells, chaired by Almudena Ramon-Cueto; (3) Visceral Function and Pain in Spinal Cord Injury, chaired by Alexander Rabchevsky; (4) Regeneration in Complex Systems, chaired by Susan Bryant; (5) Molecular Correlates of Nerve Regeneration, chaired by Marie Filbin; and (6) Emerging Topics in Regeneration, chaired by John Steeves. The abstracts for the speaker presentations as well as 82 poster presentations are given in the program on the following pages. In addition this year, a mini-CD obtaining a complimentary issue of the *Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development* will be issued.

The primary purpose of the symposium is to present current work in neural regeneration, especially in those areas of research in which there has been some notable recent progress or in which some particularly interesting issues have been raised. A secondary purpose is to foster an atmosphere that is both stimulating and conducive to a free interchange of ideas among investigators, or between seasoned investigators and students. These International Neural Regeneration Symposia have become an established, regularly occurring event with high attendance by both students as well as internationally recognized experts in the field of neural regeneration. The 11th International Symposium will be held in 2005 at the Asilomar Conference Center.

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